



PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO SCHOOLS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS

This proposal is published in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. Specifically, Regulation 5 with Schedule 2 which prescribe the alterations capable of being published by a local authority to maintained schools, and ; Regulation 6 (1) – (3) with Schedules 1 and 3 which provides for the information to be provided in relation to published proposals and prescribe the manner of their publication, determination and implementation, are relevant.

Guidance indicates that a statutory proposal for making significant changes to schools must contain sufficient information for interested parties to make a decision on whether to support the proposed change. A proposal should be accessible to all interested parties and therefore use “plain English”.

School and LA details

School details are:
Avenue Primary School
Avenue Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM2 6JE

Category: Community

Contact details for the Local Authority as proposer are:

Pupil Based Commissioning Team
Stonecourt Annexe
North Street
Carshalton
SM5 2HU
Email: Primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk

Description of Alteration

The establishment from September 2014 of a SEN Opportunity Base which caters for up to 12 pupils at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 with learning difficulties.

Evidence of Demand for Additional Places

The proposal involves the establishment of a SEN Base. There is a pressing need for additional provision for children with learning difficulties in the Borough. The Base at Amy Johnson Primary School is usually full and, in the past year, the Authority has had to search for alternative provision for children due to there being no vacancies.

Projecting forward the demographic increase for children with SEN indicates an immediate need for further places for children with learning difficulties at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. Providing a learning base at Avenue Primary School, located to the west of the Borough, would meet this need and improve the balance of provision within the Borough, i.e.

the need for places in Central Sutton and to the west of the Borough. Having bases in both Wallington and Belmont would also result in more efficient use of home to school transport where that is required.

Avenue Primary School has been rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and is a 'teaching school' demonstrating best practice. The School has been identified as a suitable location to provide for children whose prime need is moderate learning difficulties.

Emerging from discussions to date, the Governors of Avenue Primary School have indicated their full support for the establishment of a SEN Opportunity Base at the School with effect from September 2014.

School Capacity and details of the current number of pupils admitted to the School in each relevant year

The current Net Capacity, which assesses the physical space in the School, is 708 places. The School is currently in the process of being expanded physically by the phased provision of additional accommodation so that it can serve a 4FE intake which will lead to a pupil roll of in the order of 840. The net capacity will increase to this level when the additional accommodation is completed. The SEN base will not add significantly to the overall net capacity of the School.

The current planned number of children who can be admitted to the School is 840 with a PAN of 120 at YR. However, in recent years the School has taken larger intakes in order to accommodate increased demand for places. The current number of pupils on roll as of January 2014 is:

YEAR	NOR
YR	149
Y1	119
Y2	120
Y3	121
Y4	90
Y5	90
Y6	91
TOTAL YR TO Y6	780

The School's PAN has been 120 with effect from September 2013 and will not be changed because of the establishment of the SEN Base. Children admitted to the base will be in addition to the cohort of up to 120 indicated by the PAN. If the School recruits up to its PAN in future, the projected numbers of pupils on roll (NOR) will be:

YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
YR	149	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Y1	119	149	120	120	120	120	120	120
Y2	120	119	149	120	120	120	120	120
Y3	121	120	119	149	120	120	120	120
Y4	90	121	120	119	149	120	120	120
Y5	90	90	121	120	119	149	120	120
Y6	91	90	90	121	120	119	149	120
TOTAL NOR	780	809	839	869	868	868	869	840

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The proposal is to establish a base to serve up to 12 children with learning difficulties from September 2014. There is already considerable demand for such places and a base at

Avenue would improve the balance of provision within the Borough through serving children living in the Central Sutton locality and in the west of the Borough.

The base will serve children at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 only. If a child lives in the Belmont area, Avenue would be their local school, and if they have made enough progress to integrate with their peers, then it is possible they may be admitted to the main school through normal admissions procedures at Year 3. However, in some cases Avenue would not be appropriate because of distance from the child's home, or because their needs cannot be met in a mainstream school. The proposal is that the child would be admitted to Y3 in appropriate Key Stage 2 provision which, in some cases, may be at a special school.

Special Educational Needs

Where proposals are to establish or alter provision for special educational needs:

The proposal is to establish a SEN Opportunity Base for up to 12 pupils at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 from September 2014.

Where proposals are to discontinue provision for special educational needs:

N/A

For any proposals relating to provision for special educational needs a description of the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposal:

The proposal should improve access to education and associated services including an appropriate provision, wider school activities, facilities and equipment because the establishment of the base will provide specialist provision which is specifically aimed at meeting the needs of a group of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children with learning difficulties in a location reasonably accessible from their homes. The local authority would either have to place these children elsewhere in non specialist provision or admit over-capacity in other specialist provision were the new base not to be established.

The proposed new base will be staffed by a specialist teacher and there will be access to both education and other professionals, including as required external support and/or outreach services. The Authority will allocate appropriate revenue funding which will enable the school to provide a teacher and two support staff for the class.

The accommodation for the proposed new base will be provided as part of the larger project to expand Avenue Primary for September 2015. However, the base will open in September 2014 as part of the first phase of this expansion and will admit its first cohort of pupils at YR. Appropriate accommodation will be available to house the base from that time.

Widespread consultation has been undertaken in respect of this proposal. The proposal adds to the existing pattern and mix of SEN provision and will offer the facilities necessary to support young children with learning difficulties and enable an appropriate curriculum to be offered.

As stated above the proposal will supplement the Amy Johnson base and so result in reduced travelling time for children living in the west of the Borough.

Possible effects on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The whole of Sutton has experienced a considerable increase in demand in recent years which has led to the significant expansion of primary capacity. Avenue has been part of this programme of expansion. Avenue has an "Outstanding" judgement from Ofsted and is a popular and successful school. It is recruiting strongly and there is every indication that it will continue to do so. However, it is not expected that either the expansion of Avenue Primary or the establishment of the SEN Base will have any adverse impact on other schools, academies and educational institutions in the area.

Consultation

Consultation on possible changes to SEN provision at three schools – Culvers House Primary, **Avenue Primary** and Sherwood Park Special – took place over a six week period between 6 January and 14 February 2014. Consultation documents were distributed widely and were available for downloading from the Sutton website. Three public meetings were held at the schools involved and the matter was reported to the relevant local area committee.

Specific Consultees

The following persons/bodies were consulted:

Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors of primary schools proposed for expansion.
Extended Services, Community and other of the primary schools proposed for expansion.
Parents/Carers, Staff, Chairs of Governors of all other nursery and primary schools in Sutton
Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all secondary schools in Sutton
Headteachers of all special schools in Sutton
Headteachers/Teachers in Charge of Pupil Referral Units in Sutton
Children's Centres
Principal of SCOLA
Principal of Orchard Hill College
Principal of Carshalton College of Further Education
All elected members (councillors) of the London Borough of Sutton
Chairs of all Sutton Local Committees
Directors of Children's Services of neighbouring Local Authorities (Merton, Croydon, Richmond, Kingston and Surrey)
MPs and MEPs
Local Dioceses – Church of England and Roman Catholic
Chair of the Sutton Schools Forum
Chair of the Sutton Admissions Forum
Chair of the Sutton Primary Headteachers Group
Chair of the Sutton Secondary Headteachers Group
All Strategic Directors (London Borough of Sutton)
All Executive Heads of Service (London Borough of Sutton)
Secretaries of relevant Trades Unions and Teachers Professional Associations
Sutton Racial Equality Council
Chair of Early Outcomes and Extended Services Partnership
Chair of Sutton Voluntary Sector Forum (Children and Families)
Chief Executive, Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust
Metropolitan Police – Area Commander, Sutton
Early Years and PVI settings
GPs
Young Advisers Faith and Belief Forum

Summary of the views of persons consulted

For the establishment of a SEN Base at Avenue Primary, there were 45 responses in the form of response forms, e-mails and other communications. 38 (84%) expressed support; 5 (11%) expressed opposition, and; 2 (5%) were not sure. The open consultation meeting was attended by two members of the public who supported the proposal.

The investment in the expansion of SEN provision was welcomed by respondents. Concerns about traffic, congestion, parking and nuisance to local residents were by far the most frequent responses raised at Avenue Primary.

The proposals in respect of changes to SEN provision were also reported to the relevant Local Area Committees.

Details of how to view consultation documents and minutes of meetings

Consultation documents and the minutes of meetings can be obtained from:
Pupil Based Commissioning Team
Stonecourt Annexe
North Street
Carshalton
SM5 2HU
Email: Primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk

Project costs and an indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The capital cost of changes to accommodate the new opportunity base at the Avenue Primary School site will be around £200k. An application was successfully made to the DfE for grant funding to complete this work.

The Council has processes for scrutinising costs, for example based on benchmarking and examination of unit rates as well as having extensive experience of implementing similar projects in the recent past

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The proposals for the establishment of an SEN Opportunity Base at the school are published by the Local Authority with the full support of the School's Governing Body. The accommodation for the base has become incorporated in the larger phased scheme for the provision of the necessary accommodation for the expansion of the School by 1FE. The School became a 4FE school with effect from September 2013 but has been able to accommodate the initial years of increased cohorts at YR in its existing accommodation. Suitable accommodation will be available from September 2014 for the first cohort of children joining the Base. It will open approximately a year ahead of the final delivery of the larger overall project.

The Local Authority will provide appropriate levels of funding for the Opportunity Base which should ensure a sufficient level of resources to support the SENs of the pupils who will join the roll of the School in the Opportunity Base progressively over the course of the next three years as numbers build up.

Additional Site

N/A

Explanation of the procedures for responses: support, objections and comments

Within four weeks from the date of the publication of these proposals (Tuesday 22 April 2014), any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the London Borough of Sutton.

The Statutory Proposal/Notice was published on the London Borough of Sutton's Website (www.sutton.gov.uk) on 22 April 2014 and posted at the School. Valid representations must be received at the relevant offices of the Local Authority by the close of business on Monday 19 May 2014.

Any representations should be sent to:
The Pupil Based Commissioning Team
Stonecourt Annex,
North Street,
Carshalton SM5 2HU.
Email: primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk